

Here are a few new things to try!

1. Are you a Skype user? Do you want to expand your Skype network? Skype is beta testing a Skype educator's network. It is a free online directory to make it easy for teachers to connect with other teachers and resources from around the world. The directory will launch in December. Once you sign up with your Skype account and create a profile, you'll be able to search for other teachers and classes by subject and region. You can also share inspiration and tips to help kids learn with Skype.

<http://blogs.skype.com/classroom-pre-register/>

2. It's something new. There is a new way of information searching called [Qwiki](#). Search using [Qwiki](#) and instead of coming up with a list of links to websites, images, and videos, a slide show of images and videos begins complete with computer voice narration. Qwiki is a program that is in alpha testing. You have to request an invitation to try it. You can view some samples on their website. They have turned the search for information into a story. It appears to be amazing!!!

<http://www.qwiki.com/>

3. It's not free but it is fun. There is an ipod/ipad app that is a fun way to practice math facts. Math BINGO is an app that is made by the people at ABCYa. As students try to beat their best score they

are learning math facts and learning to use strategy. The cost is \$0.99 at the itunes store.

4. Is the Revolutionary War part of your Curriculum? *Mission US* is an interactive adventure game designed to improve the understanding of American history by students in grades 5 through 8. The first game in a planned series, Mission 1: "For Crown or Colony?" explores the reasons for Revolution through the eyes of both Loyalists and Patriots in 1770 Boston. They also offer teacher downloads to help guide instruction through the missions.

<http://www.mission-us.org/>

5. Here's a fun game for those who use SMART Notebook. It uses the character's from the PBS series Cyberchase. Designed for grades 3-5, the **CYBERCHASE** Lucky Star game show challenges kids to compete for top scores while building important math skills.

**Lucky Star** has 150 questions that focus on problem solving, algebraic thinking, number and operations, geometry, measurement, and more. The game show includes an on-screen think pad (a drop down area where students can work the problems with the pen. The game show also includes some great virtual manipulatives that students can interact with on the interactive whiteboard.

<http://pbskids.org/cyberchase/whiteboard/>

Have a great weekend!!!